

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Stacie Leatherman
(216) 707-2265
sleatherman@clevelandart.org

Cleveland Museum of Art Only U.S. Venue to Showcase Raphael Drawings

Works by Renaissance Masters Shown Through November 2002

CLEVELAND (July 11, 2002) — The Cleveland Museum of Art is the first and only U.S. venue for **Raphael and His Age: Drawings from the Palais des Beaux-Arts, Lille** (Aug. 25–Nov. 3, 2002), an exhibition featuring renowned drawings by Raphael (1483–1520).

The Palais des Beaux-Arts in Lille, France, has one of the major collections of drawings by the Italian Renaissance master Raphael, who worked in Urbino, Florence and Rome. The free show features 57 drawings, including 25 drawings by Raphael, plus works by Botticelli, Jacopo da Pontormo, Filippino Lippi, and Fra Bartolommeo.

“This is a rare opportunity to view these works of art — they do not travel from Lille often,” notes Carter E. Foster, The Cleveland Museum of Art’s Curator of Drawings. “Raphael was a superior draftsman and these drawings, which are frequently preparations for his paintings, are intimate glimpses into the mind of a genius.”

This exhibition of drawings is the result of the French Regional American Museum Exchange (FRAME), an initiative of Elizabeth Rohatyn, wife of former U.S. Ambassador to France Felix G. Rohatyn, and Françoise Cachin, former Director of French Museums. Founded in 1999, it is a consortium of nine American and nine French museums created to generate cooperative projects and open their outstanding collections to a wider public in the U.S. and Europe. This is the first FRAME exhibition at the Cleveland Museum. It will open at the Palais des Beaux-Arts in December 2003.

Organized chronologically, the exhibition starts with Raphael’s predecessors — the earliest work is Botticelli’s *Two Standing Men, for the “Adoration of the Magi”* (1475) — and continues with Raphael and those who succeeded him. Nearly all the Raphael drawings date from the first half of his 20-year career, from 1503 to approximately 1513. One important group of drawings relates to an altarpiece Raphael executed in 1503, *The Coronation of the Virgin*. In a variety of techniques, these studies show how the artist developed head, hand and faces in detail to help him work out his ideas for the finished painting. On the back of one of the sheets is a pen drawing by one of Raphael’s studio assistants, reflecting the collaborative nature of his workshop even at this early stage in his career.

(more)

Another coherent group is the drawings for Raphael's most important work, the mural-size fresco decorations in the room of the Vatican palace known as the *Stanza della Segnatura*, commissioned by Pope Julius II. These paintings are among the most influential and important works of the Renaissance. The exhibition will include nine different studies for the *Stanza*, including one of Raphael's most famous pen and ink drawings, a nude figure drawing of Apollo for the painting *Parnassus* (1510).

A small selection of works by Raphael's successors rounds out the exhibition. Among these drawings is Jacopo da Pontormo's renowned *Three Male Nudes* (1517–18), in which three figures are depicted as though moving through a sequence of walking movements.

The Cleveland Museum of Art also announces the Aug. 25 opening of the exhibition ***Battle of the Nudes: Pollaiuolo's Renaissance Masterpiece***, on view through Oct. 27, 2002. Admission to the show is free.

The American FRAME museums are: the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Portland Art Museum, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, the Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, the Yale University Art Gallery, and the Yale Center for British Art and British Studies. French FRAME museums are the Fine Arts Museums of Bordeaux, Lille, Lyon, Grenoble, Rennes, Rouen, and Strasbourg, plus the Augustins Museum, Toulouse, and the Fabre Museum, Montpellier.

FRAME is supported by the the Felix and Elizabeth Rohatyn Foundation; the Foundation for French Museums, chaired by Mr. Michel David-Weill; the Florence Gould Foundation of New York, which plays an active role in cultural relations between France and America; the Annenberg Foundation; the Boeckman Family Foundation; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Buchbinder; Bruce and Carol Calder; the Fox Family Foundation; the GingkoGroup; Emily Summers; Constance Goodyear; Nancy B. Hamon; S. Roger Horchow; Michael J. Horvitz; Alice Lobel; Mr. and Mrs. David Mesker; Mr. and Mrs. Peter O'Donnell; Perot Foundation; Mrs. Lewis T. Preston; Emily Rauh Pulitzer; Sophie and Jérôme Seydoux; George A. Shutt; and Barbara Walters.

Promotional support is provided by WCLV 104.9 FM. The Cleveland Museum of Art receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 5,000 years. The museum is a pivotal international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

###

Note to Editors: Digital images available upon request.

(more)